

# ***The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Accomplishments for Federal Year 2014***



*"Each time someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."*

*Robert F. Kennedy*



# OUR COUNCIL

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*\*denotes term expired*



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IL Department on Aging  
IL Governor's Office of  
Management & Budget  
IL State Board of Education  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Department of Disability &  
Human Development

## ***A Message from our Chairperson and Director***

Dear Friends,

The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities believes that every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserves to live a full, self-directed life in a community of their choice. This belief is what frames the work of the Council, and it is what we strive to accomplish every day.

Ripples of change are occurring at the local, regional and state level. The Council has worked hand in hand with self-advocates and families to make sure that we invest in initiatives that will transform the current system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In order for true change to occur, services and supports in Illinois must be designed in a way that centers on the needs and desires of individuals.

As the state's rebalancing initiative progresses and implementation of the Ligas Consent Decree results in

more people getting community services, we know that there is a lot of work to do. Over the next year we know that many of you will be called upon to be a part of making change happen. It will not always be easy, but by working together, the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be improved and people will become a part of their communities. We will continue to work with self-advocates, families, policymakers, providers, and the community at large to continue advancing the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We invite you to join us.

Sincerely,  
*William Bogdan,*  
Chairperson

*Sheila T. Romano, Ed.D.,*  
Director

## ***ICDD's Mission***

We help lead change in Illinois so all people with developmental disabilities are able to exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom.

### **About the Council**

The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

- Is dedicated to improving the lives of the more than 200,000 Illinoisans with intellectual & developmental disabilities through advocacy, systems change and capacity building;
- Is a federally funded state agency (20 ILCS 4010) with a budget of \$2.2 million;
- Has as its governing board a majority of people with intellectual & developmental disabilities and their families;
- Has a mission that is guided by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act law;
- Invests in entities to demonstrate new approaches in services and support for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities;
- Collaborates with state and local agencies, families and self advocates to make changes in the system that help people with developmental & intellectual disabilities live their lives in the community they choose.

# 2014 PROGRESS REPORT

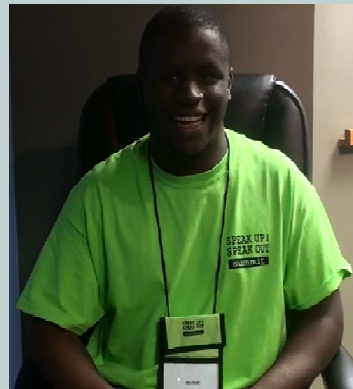
Federal Fiscal Year 2014

October 2013-September 2014

## We dream that...

The Council has four overarching goals that map out a path to a better future. The stories on the next few pages detail how investments in programs and initiatives are helping Illinois reach those goals.

1. Illinois service systems are rebalanced so that people with intellectual & developmental disabilities have the supports they need to lead full lives in their communities.
2. Illinois' culture sees people with developmental disabilities as people leading lives like others in their communities.
3. People with developmental disabilities of working age are supported to build personal assets through employment aligned with personal choice.
4. The lives and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities are a conscious part of discussion in the public sphere.



## New Housing Opportunities

*"I live in my own home and I have two jobs. I like to read and shop and I go to Springfield to work on creating housing for people." Vicki Krueger, Self-Advocate*

In response to the increasing need for housing in Illinois due to the Ligas Consent Decree, the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center and an \$11.98 million award the state received from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for affordable housing for people with disabilities, the Council funded an initiative with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). This project, the first of its kind in the nation, was designed to

develop supportive housing opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Illinois. Over the course of four months, 14 teams from across the state met for a Supportive Housing Institute to learn about the concept of supportive housing and how they might make it a reality in their communities for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities. Self-advocates were a part of the discussion over the four

months. As Jen Knapp with Community Choices explained, "People don't want to hear, this is what I built for you. They want to build it together." Additionally, Governor Quinn's Office decided to develop a pilot project to utilize the funds awarded by HUD. Several of the teams from the Institute were invited to participate in the pilot in hopes of moving their concepts of supportive housing even further toward reality in their communities.



Vicki Krueger, Jolene Oaks & Mary Riddle working on their plan during one of the Institute sessions.



Vicki and Kevin Casey, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

## Continued Collaborations

*Collaboration among stakeholders has been imperative in moving the state's rebalancing efforts forward." Sheila Romano, ICDD Director*

The Council funded two initiatives with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). The first was designed to improve the accuracy of the current waiting list for intellectual and developmental disabilities services and to ensure consistency of its use throughout the state. The second project involved changing the role/responsibility of service coordinators in developing, implementing and monitoring a person-centered plan. This is a major shift from the current practice.

The approach has been very thoughtful, intentional and collaborative. Intensive work has been done with the Division of Developmental Disabilities in mapping the current system and creating the "new" system. In addition, a very strategic outreach plan was developed and implemented with major stakeholders/policymakers including the Governor's Office, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Budget Office, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families, the Independent Service Coordination agencies and trade associations.



# Evolving Employment

*"The success of the Workforce Developer Network proves what can be accomplished when agencies put clients first and work collaboratively to reach their goals."* Kim Mercer, Chicago Public Schools



Sandra enjoys her job at Cermak Produce.



Trevor hanging out at home.



Staff Margie Harkness (center) meeting with Dorelia Rivera and Phil Milsk to discuss Employment First.

The Council funded two projects in the area of employment, the Workforce Development Placement Group and Everyone Works!. Sandra Jimenez was a senior in high school and had been looking for a job for over a year. Everything changed when Sandra's special education teacher, Angela Buckner, who also doubles as the school's job developer, attended a training conducted by the Workforce Developer Network. This training on how to more effectively find jobs for people with disabilities empowered Angela to rethink how she approaches employers. She immediately adopted one of the core concepts she learned through the Workforce Developer Network's director, Joe Chiappetta: focus completely on employer needs to make appropriate job matches to specific job seeker interests. Sandra

was interested in working in a grocery store, so Angela began canvassing the neighborhood and came across Cermak Produce. She asked the store manager what his employment needs were. After some discussion, Angela said she had the perfect person in mind. The store manager was very open to hiring Sandra, and she started as a bagger 2 days per week. As she approached her one-year anniversary, Sandra decided to ask for more hours. She now works 4 days per week. The store manager says Sandra has never missed a day of work and that she "is a delight to have". Everyone Works!, an initiative between Total Link2 Community (TL2C) and the Northern Suburban Special Education District Cooperative, utilizes customized employment to create sculpted, integrated competitive

employment opportunities for adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities. Trevor Rodgers came to TL2C in search of a job. Trevor loves to travel, write creative stories, and follow safety rules. TL2C learned of the Northeastern Illinois Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA), which offers training services to first responders, in Trevor's hometown. After going on an informational tour, Trevor loved the environment. TL2C learned that training groups are given a binder of material and that classrooms needed to be rearranged each day. They approached NIPSTA about hiring Trevor, and they agreed it would be very helpful for them. Trevor now works for NIPSTA completing classroom set-up and other office-related tasks.

## *Employment First*

"Employment First" became a much more familiar term to many people. Once the Employment First Act was signed in the summer of 2013, ICDD and advocates turned to efforts furthering the actual implementation of supports for employment being the first option available to people with disabilities. An Executive Order was issued in June of 2014 which instructed state agencies to review their services and policies and develop a plan for how each would shift to better support individuals in employment. Five workgroups formed under the existing Employment and Economic Opportunity Taskforce to draft an initial Strategic Plan on how to implement the Employment First Act.

# Inclusive Post-Secondary Education

*"The mentor program is a great support for those students in the program, but even greater are the opportunities it allows some of our non-disabled students. For the students in our education program, being the mentor is a fantastic learning experience."* HALO Faculty Member

The Council invested in two postsecondary programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Heartland Community College and Lewis & Clark Community College both wanted to make their existing programs more inclusive. Heartland Community College focused on the development of a curriculum and training on accommodations and universal design, as well as developing a peer support program to better support and integrate their students into full campus life. The Heartland Academy for Learning Opportunities (HALO) program found the added support of peer mentors greatly increased the outcomes for their students in academics, personal growth and friendship with their mentor. For example, one noted that her mentee had initially only been able to write 1 paragraph independently but now could write 5 paragraphs. Staff too are making changes. The library administrator asked that her staff, including the student workers, be trained so that they could better assist students with disabilities. Parents have been very supportive of the HALO program. As one parent stated "This program has given our daughter

more confidence and heightened self-value. Please pass along to all involved what a wonderful impact this has made. We could not have asked for, nor expected, more." Lewis & Clark Community College developed a new program, Transition Inclusion Independence (TI<sup>2</sup>). TI<sup>2</sup> focuses on dual enrollment for youth in their final year of high school. Through the instructional learning coaches and peer mentor components, the youth are supported as they enter college life with the goal that the new student learns how to study, access all campus supports and activities, and then continue as full time students at the community college after high school graduation. Students are given a college email account like all other enrolled students, are assisted in learning to access on-line class notes and information and how to submit assignments electronically. Tutoring with the learning coaches occurs in the student tutoring center, which is in the campus library. This allows students to become comfortable with the setting where all students go to work on assignments and get assistance.



Students in the HALO program learn about cooking.



A student in the HALO program learning about early childhood education.



# Advocacy and New Voices

*"Hearing about self advocacy groups helped us launch our own group called Friends Helping Friends Action Club."*

Self-Advocate and SUSO Attendee



A self-advocate asks a question of Director Casey during SUSO.

## *Speak Up and Speak Summit*

The Council funded the ninth annual Speak Up and Speak Out Summit (SUSO) in Springfield. Over 500 people were in attendance, with over 300 being self-advocates. Self-advocates, family members and others attended sessions ranging from talking with your legislator to Zumba. It is clear that those who attend SUSO gain confidence and increase their advocacy skills each year. As one attendee stated, "I met some new friends who invited me to more things and we are talking about moving in together". Another attendee stated, "I spoke up about wanting to live with only other ladies and I am moving to a new CILA where I will have my own room". One of the highlights of SUSO is the session with the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. During this time, self-advocates are given the opportunity to ask the Director anything they want. It has been great to see how educated and informed self-advocates have become about the developmental disabilities system, as their questions are very specific and pushed the status quo.

## *The Alliance*

The Council also funds The Alliance for Change in Illinois (The Alliance), a statewide self-advocacy organization led by self-advocates. There are 19 different advocacy organizations represented in The Alliance including approximately 400 self-advocates. Members of The Alliance have begun taking on leadership roles on various workgroups/committees including Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND); a Waiver workgroup convened by the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities; a statewide Coalition tied to Rebalancing; and the Balancing Incentive Program Stakeholder Group. Systems advocacy is very important to The Alliance. They were successful in getting an amendment to the Adult Waiver submitted to CMS in March 2014. The amendment was for a new service definition called Self Directed Living. The Alliance is also very involved with SUSO. They presented some breakout sessions and conducted an open mic session during the event.

## *Going Home*

Another initiative of the Council is the Going Home Campaign. The goal is to educate policymakers and the general public about the benefits of community living. Terry lived in state-operated developmental centers for a large portion of his life. He lived at Kankakee, Dixon, and Chester. Now, he is much happier living in the community in his apartment with his roommate and enjoys being independent. Terry's dreams for his future are to own a car and to get married. Another example is Jonathan, who has lived in an apartment with a roommate for seven years. Jonathan has the supports he needs to be successful in the community and has even started his own shredding business. A piece of this initiative is to encourage legislators to visit individuals who reside in the community so they can see what success looks like. Jonathan's mother stated "Jonathan's father and I continue to be proud of him every day because of how much he continues to learn." Representative Robin Gabel visited Jonathan in his home. In addition, other legislators visited other constituents in their homes. Many times the legislators were very surprised to see that a person, with the right supports, could have a successful life. One legislator even commented that "other legislators need to see this".



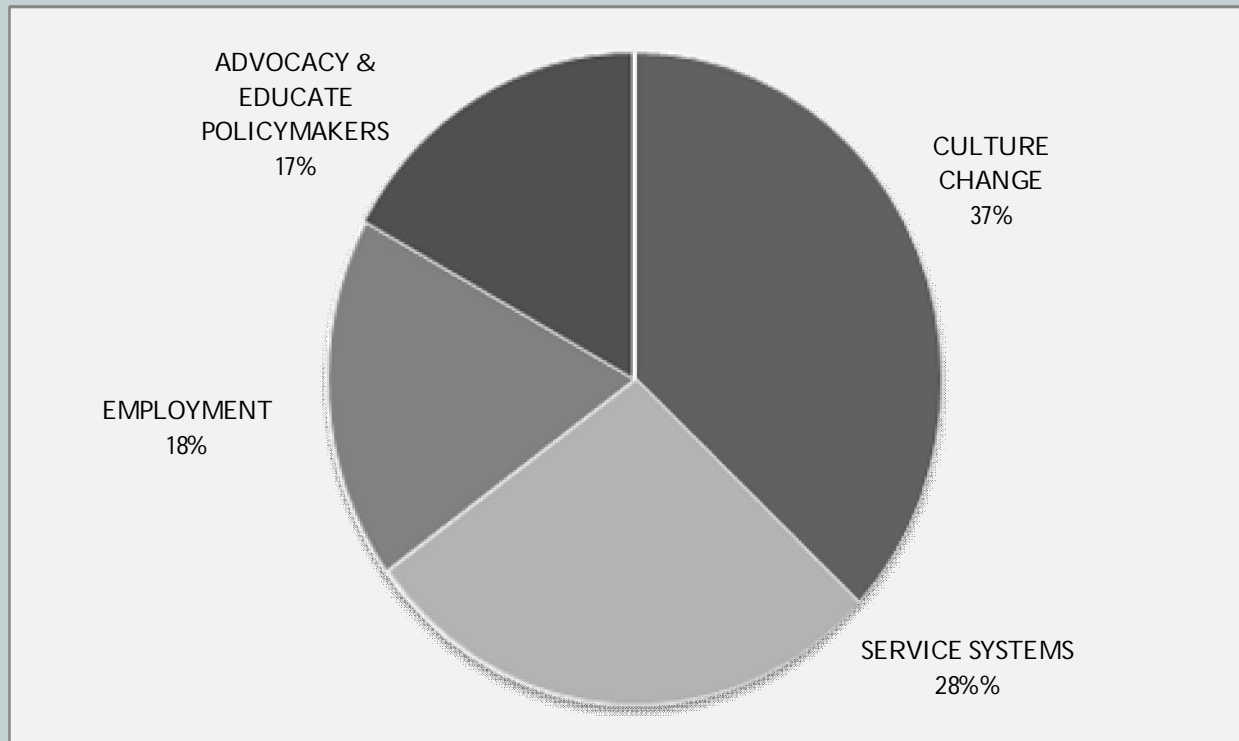
Members of The Alliance attend leadership training.



Jonathan and Rep. Gabel at Jonathan's home.

# Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

## COUNCIL EXPENDITURES FFY 2014 Expenditures 2,300,060.62



Chicago Office  
100 W. Randolph Street  
Suite 10-600  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Voice 312-814-2080  
Fax 312-814-7141

Springfield Office  
830 S. Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
Voice 217-782-9696  
Fax 217-524-5339

TTY 888-261-2717

[www.state.il.us/agency/ICDD](http://www.state.il.us/agency/ICDD)





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